(c) Yes.

(d) As the wages paid were more than the minimum mentioned in clause (a) above and as it was not possible to increase the salary and allowance due to the finanćal stringency of the municipal council, the requests for increase of the basic wage of sanitary workers to Rs. 30 and for grant of an immediate increase of Rs. 3 in the basic wages were not complied with.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : On a point of order, Sir. The Hon. Minister has read out a very long answer which we could not follow. So, I would request you to take up the question to-morrow and also request the Hon. Minister to place it on the table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The question requires a long answer which has to be given. I think, the hon. Member should carefully go through the answer. So, there is no point of order.

Private notice question regarding an epidemic disease in Payyanur firka.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the hon. Member, Sri K. P. Gopalan, wants to put a short notice question and he can do so.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the preventive and relief measures the Government have taken to check the spread of a peculiar epidemic disease which recently broke out in Perinthatta desam in Payyanur firka, North Malabar?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : There has been no outbreak of any epidemic in the Perinthatta desam, Payyanur firka of the Malabar district.

The District Health Officer, Kozhikode, visited the village along with the village munsif on 19th August 1955 and again on 20th August 1955 with the Health Inspector, Taliparamba, and the Reserve Health Inspector posted to the range for epidemic duty. As a result of the investigations carried out by the District Health Officer, it was gathered that three children had died between the period from about 24th July 1955 to 5th August 1955. One of the deaths was due to diarrhœa. There was one other case of dysentery which was treated by the Reserve Health Inspector on 11th August 1955 and the child fully recovered.

The Reserve Health Inspector also investigated about dysentery and diarrhœa by house-to-house visits but there was no other case except the one which he treated. However, he carried out chlorination of wells as a preventive measure.

The District Health Officer has instructed the Range Health Inspector, Taliparamba, and the Reserve Health Inspector to keep a watch over the place. The Reserve Health Inspector has been specially posted to the range to carry on disinfection,

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chlorination, inoculation, etc., against water-borne diseases as there were some floods in the range at the beginning of the monsoon.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : On a point of order, Sir. Putting a short notice question and replying to it is not an exclusive private matter between the hon. Member and the Hon. Minister concerned to be discussed across the table of the House. I think we are entitled to have a copy of the question and we were taken by surprise when the Hon. Speaker permitted the short notice question to be put, without even copies to this House?

MR. SPEAKER : The question was handed over to me just immediately before we sat and it was with a view to accommodate and oblige the hon. Member that the Hon. Minister had been good enough to reply. Of course, if we are strict, the question could have been rejected on the ground that it was given out of time. But the question was allowed to be answered out of consideration for the subject and to oblige the hon. Member. Strictly it may not be in order and you are also entitled to a copy of the question. But now that the matter has been explained and that the answer has been given, I hope hon. Members are satisfied. 10 a.m.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : I understand from what you have stated that the short notice question was given to you before we sat here. That means, Sir, there was not much time left to the Hon. Minister, however capable he may be, to prepare his answer and that too to prepare such a lengthy answer which was given on the floor of the House and which took ten minutes to be read, and the Hon. Minister must be possessing such capacity as to dictate the answer to the question as soon as it was given to somebody and got it typed and bring the reply ready to be answered. Am I to believe all these to be facts, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : The question was handed over to me just immediately before we sat. It may be that a copy of the question was handed over to the Hon. Minister a few minutes ago or even yesterday. But the date I find in the question handed over to me by Sri K. P. Gopalan is 29th September 1955. Therefore, there is absolutely no inconsistency in what I said. I got the question before I came inside the House, and I took it up because the Hon. Minister was in a position to give a reply.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : On a point of clarification, Sir. I feel, Sir, that unless the Minister is willing, a question cannot be marked as a short notice question. As such, it does not depend upon the Hon. Speaker to mark a question as a short notice question but it depends upon the Minister. The short notice question was answered to-day because the Hon. Minister was perhaps willing to answer it. If a short notice question is put on an urgent subject, the Minister concerned also, feeling the urgency, must be prepared to answer it. Therefore, it is only by mutual consent that short notice questions can be answered. There is

nothing wrong in the procedure. I want a clarification from the Chair that answering of short notice questions does not entirely depend upon the Speaker. My only submission is that the Minister also has got to be prepared to prepare an answer and read it and he has also to be reckoned with, in this matter of answering short notice questions. Is that not so, Sir?

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : It is certainly very good of you, Sir, to have admitted a question which was raised as a matter of urgency by one hon. Member. But, in order to see that such questions are in the possession of the entire House, may I just make a submission that in such cases where Ministers concerned agree to answer them on the same day they were given notice of it is certainly possible for the office to arrange for cyclostyling the question and circulating it to hon. Members of the House so that they may be in a position to put supplementary questions. I would like you, Sir, to consider the suggestion.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Just a few minutes ago, you where certain sons have been baned. Similarly here also, the some difficulty in the procedure. The usual procedure that is followed in respect of short notice questions is that notice is given to the Minister concerned and afterwards the question is circulated to the Members of the House. More often, short notice questions are marked as starred questions so that Members here may put supplementary questions. By your admitting the question and allowing it to be answered, we have been deprived of a very great privilege of putting supplementary questions on the short notice question. I do not know, Sir, how the Hon. Minister had been able to prepare the answer immediately after notice of the question was given. I submit, Sir, that we have been deprived of our great privilege of putting supplementary questions.

DR. K. B. MENON : May I make a submission in this connexion, Sir. The interests of the Members of the Assembly should not be prejudiced when such accommodation can be made, what has been said should not prejudice the Deputy Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER : If the Hon. Minister had been able to give the answer quickly, that only reflects the efficiency of his department. I am entirely in the hands of the House. If hon. Members want to go through all the formalities, then the questions must be received in time and if they are not given in time they will be rejected and the usual and routine process will then be followed. The question related to the preventive measures taken by the Government to check the spreading of a peculiar epidemic disease and I thought that it was a matter which ought to be placed before the House and whatever answer the Hon. Minister was able to give the Members should have the benefit of it.